when said members are in said close position, using a magnetic field of sufficient strength to maintain the ferromagnetic body in a first switch orientation in simultaneous contact with said first and second switch elements;

in response to relative movement of the members from said close to said open position, magnetically shifting said ferromagnetic body to a second switch orientation out of contact with said second switch element; and

generating a signal when said ferromagnetic body is shifted.

18. (Amended) The method of claim 16, said first switch element being in a generally upright orientation, with said second switch element spaced below the first switch element, said maintaining step comprising the step of maintaining the ferromagnetic body in a lower first switch orientation, said magnetic shifting step comprising the step of shifting the ferromagnetic body upwardly to said second switch orientation.

23. (Amended) A magnetic switch apparatus for detecting relative movement between first and second members from a close position where the members are adjacent, and an open position where the members are separated, said apparatus comprising a switch assembly for mounting to the first member, including a first, elongated switch element and a second switch element in spaced relationship to said first switch element, and a magnet assembly including a ferromagnetic body adjacent said first and second switch elements, said assembly operable to shift said ferromagnetic body in a first switch orientation in simultaneous contact with said first and second switch elements when said members are in said close position, and to shift said ferromagnetic

body to a second switch orientation out of contact with said second switch element in response to relative movement of the members to said open position.

N.E.✓ Please add the following new claims:

30. A method of detecting the relative movement between first and second members from a close position where the members are adjacent, and an open position where the members are separated, said method comprising the steps of:

installing a switch assembly on said first member, said switch assembly including a first elongated switch element, a second switch element disposed in spaced relationship to the first element, and a shiftable body movable between a first position in simultaneous contact with said first and second switch elements, and a second position out of said simultaneous contact;

when said members are in said close position, using a magnetic field of sufficient strength to maintain said body in one of said first and second positions;

in response to movement of the members from said close to said open position, magnetically moving the body to the other of said first and second positions; and

generating a signal when said body is moved.

31. The method of claim 30, said magnetic moving step comprising the steps of using a magnetic field developed between said body and a first cooperable component on said first member.

32. The method of claim 31, said first component comprising a ring-shaped magnet.

33. The method of claim 30, said magnetic field of sufficient strength being developed between said body and a second cooperable component on said second member.

34. The method of claim 33, said second component comprising a magnet mounted on said second member.

35. The method of claim 30, said first switch element being in a generally upright orientation, with said second switch element spaced below the first switch element, said maintaining step comprising the step of maintaining the ferromagnetic body in a lower first switch orientation, said magnetic moving step comprising the step of shifting the ferromagnetic body upwardly to said second switch orientation.

36. The method of claim 1, said body being ferromagnetic and generally spherical.